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Joseph Peace Hazard

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11-30-1866

### Travel letter no. 02, Series 2

Joseph Peace Hazard

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#### Recommended Citation

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The principal Hotel a most enviable place  
of stone arches & mosaic floors, even as  
a cucumber with its wide deep green  
bucandans, cement worn, restaurant he  
has a pretty <sup>garden</sup> on the water edge in front  
where white jessamine covering a large arch  
above with its sweet flowers, under  
which ladies & gentlemen greatly called for  
refreshments from the hotel etc. The grand  
walks are full of various shells, and  
the beds edged with large conch shells  
are so common on mantels with us, pink  
inside. Roses in full bloom, Bananas  
Pompanos orange and figs the tropical  
things of beauty - The harbor opens  
nearly or quite 100 ~~ships~~ vessels riding  
mostly ships, 20 at least of these being  
disabled, disabled, by the great October  
gale. At least 25 steamers bound for  
the island and a coast of the gulf are  
lying there such a busy scene of preparation  
Smoke and steam pouring out, as if to  
make room for the fleet going in. Islets  
500 to 700 or 8 hundred feet high stand the outside  
There is a fine marine Rail way, as also an  
iron floating dock, the first being a sort of  
hospital for disabled craft as well as a great  
center of distribution of provisions from main  
lines to branches as well as food, and the port  
being free goods are cheap and ship chandlers  
flourish. - ~~The~~ Good Spanish flour sold  
yesterday at auction for 8.80 cts per barrel.  
After the Bismarck came the steam and  
planter and Mr. Moore told me he could  
remember when all these hills, ~~now~~ as wild  
& <sup>unimproved</sup> as Gove's island, were fertile sugar fields.  
A large stone palace of a house & land



on the summit of one of them are  
enduring monuments of the Monarchist  
System that built it - <sup>The British on board</sup> is Thomas -

I was much gratified at the universal  
courtesy of negro and colored races, and  
more with their intelligence, and cleanliness  
I mean of course the better class of them,  
and it is a very large one - all the ships  
appear to be kept in at least attendance there,  
and a great many of them are spacious &  
filled with expensive large stocks of food -  
Every body appear to speak English, I found  
not one exception and the colored people use  
4 or 5 languages generally I am told - American  
gold and silver are just as current there  
as ~~though~~ us at home, but the natives the  
negro refuse as a gift even, just as bygone  
to storage coins of small value in Europe -  
I saw not a beggar <sup>The Zambesi is a rich beautiful tree  
about 30 feet high, wild, but much  
blasted in the streets.</sup>

The great depot for coal is in an island  
opposite the town - Our ship was charged with  
English coal by women & girls and men and  
boys, all colored (I saw no work done by  
whites even in the ship yard) The coal  
is carried on the head (by women chiefly) in baskets  
containing 90 lbs each, all alike, and a  
very set they are, and at their morning  
exhibited no indication of fatigue - Though  
the coal is carried about 300 feet, the last  
80 which is ~~up~~ on inclined plane of loose  
planks, rising fully 12 feet in the pitch -  
For this work they have 2 cts for each 3 baskets  
or 2 cts for 270 lbs or less than 16 cts per net ton.  
If it be done at night the price is 1 ct per basket  
<sup>about 150 baskets per day</sup> <sup>is the average work</sup>  
Two or 3 old stone wind mills stand on the hills  
highly sites of old sugar mills - Several most  
picturesque rambling residences half built in  
shrubbery are perched about and near the hill  
tops where the view must be ever fine and the  
air delightful - Elms, magnolia, bay, however -



The fellow of whom I speak is a very pleasant old  
man, began life in Santa Cruz, where he lives, a  
fine rich boy has now a dozen sugar estates -  
and is one of the Governor's council. His wife is  
an educated woman. This is Sullivan's friend -  
He told me that some years ago a man  
purchased some land on the shore among the wilds  
near St Thomas. In the habit of walking on his  
property he often observed a chain in the fork of  
a tree that had evidently long been grown  
over by the growth of the fork - At length his  
curiosity was excited, he found the chain  
had apparently been dipped in lead, apparently  
to completely close an open link that could  
not be welded at the tree - This excited his  
suspicions and hopes and finally of  
death - at length he expended a great  
amount of treasure, assisted to pirates of  
the olden time, where St Thomas harbour  
was a favorite resort - It is so proved that  
pursued at one entrance could be baffled  
by a flight from the other, a shoal  
between forbidding pursuit except by a  
circuit of the island first - Even St Thomas,  
the "incredible Thomas" as Willie Athrup  
named his statue in Rome to me 10 years ago -  
The gates who send most kind regards to  
Peter Fern (please tell his sister Sophy to say  
so to him) mentions 2 remarkable papers - a  
ship foundered at sea all lost, in which he was to go  
if the captain (his friend) could wait 1 day longer  
he could not - <sup>He has been 11 times & back from N.Y. to Rio. 1.</sup> At St Louis his baggage was in  
one voyage 90 days, another only 40 - all by rail.  
a steamer he was to go in, but was accidentally  
left - In 10 miles she blew up killing 20 at  
the dinner table - I therefore think we will ship safely -  
A young man "Barker" son of a miner  
of wealth near Potlatch, is going out to  
Brazil to look for bituminous coal he hears of  
them, intending opening it if it offers profit -  
He is a very cheery pleasant fellow modest &  
plain, and was in the Valentine Marine  
service of the late rebellion - <sup>He was clerk</sup>  
and afterwards passed 11 months on this ship.

This ship was one of the



in Brazil, The negro who carried the wheelbarrow on his head, 2½ miles did not sit in the cart but walked and drove it - a single egg is carried on the head in Brazil - Coffee bags 160 lbs each are so carried, and some negro take 2 at once. Mr. Yates says he also saw in Brazil at a friend's house, a pair of boots ordered to be greased, they were, but inside. This is the 12th time M.Y. has been to Brazil & he must have spent over 3 years on them. 22 passengers by sail, A Mr. Fales of Bristol R.I., family editor of New Bedford obituary is on board, related to Sam Hazard (Capt. Sam). A very intelligent young man, also, from Hartford - Parker who is going to Brazil is son of a Connecticut man - he is 28 years old only - Avoid this ship when she was the gunboat commander in the late rebellion & got 1550 prize money - She was one of the fastest & most successful of the blockade fleet - carried very heavy guns, & 2200 tons burthen. Mr. Tappan says on the voyage from Rio to Europe last month they saw with great distinctness, about sunrise, Peak of Tenerife 130 miles distant - The sun's line was as clearly defined as could be, they knew the distance by that of another island by which they sailed as they saw it. Most of our passengers left us at St. Thomas - and we were not crowded before - about 30 remain, besides 225 in the steerage, Germans & Dutch, very quiet people - indeed to go by the free papers given by Emperors of Brazil - who pay 50¢ for each, to the ship, but is to be repaid by the emigrant in 5 years - He has also a gift of land - It is supposed however they will be forced by circumstances to enlist in the army there to fight Paraguay -

2<sup>d</sup> Dec. We are in the Caribbean sea about 12 South time bags and summer weather - Since leaving St. Thomas we have passed many beautiful little islands of the "Windward Islands" but are to see no more land until we reach Para - ~~Martinique~~ Martinique, Guadeloupe & all others at once among the Leeward Islands we have but we passed near to all the Windward Islands from St. John to St. Vincent. Most of them are piles of ~~mountains~~ high hills, some of them mountains, with deep valleys. Beautiful cones of and also truncated volcanic pyramids. The last was Barbados, which is not high & looks more like Block Island against the sky - but unfortunately it was after dark when we got up to and sailed close by its whole length, on the west side of it.



(The steamer Jan so I find it difficult to write)  
but it was illuminated by continual lightning -  
The lights in Bridgetown were very distinct and  
the stars lines marked by them. An Eclipse light  
is on the S. point of the Island 10 miles from town  
and right before it. I was greatly interested and  
regretted at even an unfavorable opportunity to  
see the Island & hope yet to visit it.

The gulf wind is seen often ever since we entered  
and crept the gulf stream, though much more  
rare than in it, and in only small waves now.

X Please have the 3 boxes I left in the  
outer garret put in the locked  
garret - They are all marked -

X also enclose the acct. on opposite  
page to Peacedale Co. without fail.

X My address abroad will be always care of  
Baring Brothers 40 London unless I direct otherwise.

This line, it is expected, will soon contract to stop at  
Barbados every trip. J. Bush & Mr Dully are from Elmina N.Y.  
Mr Dully is friend of Miss Dix and knows Mr Dr Hay &  
Dott & King and wife whom she met at Baltimore. She and  
the Bushes (H. W. brother) are on board for Rio & St. Paul.

Dec 4 - Noon: our latitude is 7.10.60 miles from Para when  
we expect to arrive day after tomorrow, but make the coast  
first, a light house "Salinas" 40 miles this side <sup>mouth of Amazon</sup>. The coast  
is very low - but has a bluff at this light house a village of  
the sea is ~~dark~~ as a river nearly, and weather very

delightful, the trade wind being yet with us but much  
weaker, and we shall soon be in the "doldrums" the  
dread of sail vessels that lie there helpless 40 or 50 days  
sometimes - we have had frequent showers since we  
got down to 30°, but rarely enough to drive us to shelter -  
light & short - as to heat I was draped just as in winter  
at home until yesterday, when I put on a black bombazine  
back, but resumed a black copinone one at sunset.

X Keep my letters for me, and when you  
write mention those received

50 Tons of ice taken in at N. York last, this ship to  
Rio and back, six passengers left the Sturage today &  
had for cabin passengers. They are small planters (creators I  
suppose) from about Chester on the Carolina in S.C. Carolina  
65 miles from Columbia, and are part of a colony Easton is getting  
up for San Paulo Brazil. The one I conversed with last evening  
evidently a sincere good man. They are now going to see how  
the country will suit and all who can get away of their district  
will join if there be so arranged. The known Mr Carter & Allen stone  
at Columbia. Says every body was mind by the war, and the 3 men  
he brought last summer has done.



Selling their stock in order to live on the corn it could con-  
sume - a good horse will not bring 100 dollars - there being no  
huckster except from long distance, and it is no better in Georgia,  
a French planter from the Safford, 3 miles below Donaldsonville  
says the entire of that fine region (Savannah) is desolated by the war,  
the towns & plantations burnt, and ~~not~~ <sup>scarcely</sup> a man who has a dollar  
in money, among them. The sugar estates on the Mississippi he says  
are not burned, but their owners otherwise are as poor as on the Bayou.  
This man was living in Paris, but had to return for want of income,  
and is now on his way to Brazil to try to get a sugar estate, but  
has not a letter to any one or any acquaintance there - He gets off  
at Para, first, - He knows Don A. N. Mera, Duncan, Valcour Almeida  
Valcour Almeida he says is reduced from 8 millions to his  
plantation - one of the most enterprising & popular men in the  
S. West - P. M. Du Pieu is 1st cousin to this emigrant.  
The cracker told me Columbia is just as Sherman left it.  
~~Bombard~~ mentions a preacher, <sup>godd of Stonedale</sup> he knows who always takes a  
penny up and down carrying it in his hand during his discourse,  
and cannot get along without it - I recollect one of the  
quakers of German profession, now living if not lately dead, must  
have a quill to write, and twist, in his hand, or he cannot lecture.  
a web-footed bird with a long sharp bill, big as a Widgeon  
but flying & sailing like a hawk and with similar wings.  
lighted several times on our awning ropes yesterday at dusk  
he was not afraid & was taken up & placed in a boat where he  
seemed content to be examined, but this fact I did not know  
until too late to avail myself - a web-foot properly the stick  
to the water, especially a rope to the deck  
seems odd.



Mr Tappan who is a heavy wool dealer in Montevideo  
says they normally shear there when fleeces weigh 50 lb but  
45 lb of it is wool - not over 5 lb of wool. These sheep cost  
1000 \$ each. His house sells 60,000 American chairs annually.  
Kerosene is immensely sold there. - He gave 43 1/2 cts per gallon  
for 40,000 \$ worth, a few days ago in Baltimore, in 10 gal tin  
cans, each can in a wooden box. The head of the firm  
has an "estancia" with 80,000 cattle & 120,000 sheep but  
common labor has 3 dollars per day and the Australian com-  
petition in wool is sharp upon that of S. America.

7th - 12 1/2 P.M. - we are lying off "Salinas" waiting a pilot - a bluff  
and beach of white sand & wooded country behind. A tall light house  
a pilot village named Sel e nus. 40 miles East of the mouth of the  
Amazon, so we go 80 miles out of our way to get a Pilot, the agent to  
meet the steamer from Rio 25 m from N.Y. below Para in the Amazon  
that will take our letters, Para is 75 miles up the Amazon & has  
30,000 people. I am told we see the Amazon in the 75 miles as  
if we went up 3000 - all the same they say as is the Mississippi.  
If you write by Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> Steamer came of Wright of R.R. & Junio  
now we are under the Equator with a fresh S.E. trade and in the  
waters of the Amazon all day (crossing the sea) and weather  
highly delightful. I have written deep except cool, and I chafe.  
that for a thick one, at night. Light sparkling clouds fly about  
for 10 days past, <sup>permanently</sup> <sup>on horizon</sup> ~~mainly~~ <sup>mainly</sup> sprinkly the last 4 or 5 hours. At one fine  
sun set yet. Para is called the way to Rio.  
4 P.M. We have our pilot, but the bar is dangerous so we wait the  
morning to do for it. The Steamer from N.Y. for Rio is also waiting near us  
& we expect to go to Para together - it is the North American  
I wish Isaac would try the gelatinous portions of calves head  
& feet instead of meat also & alone.



Dec 8, 66. 8 A. M. we crept bar in 6 or 8 fathoms water at 7, and are now in the Amazon with its 3 mile current of grey muddy water like that of the Mississippi - our sister the North Amazon a dead 5 miles behind us and a Brig & small craft in front. Low land covered with trees is seen on the East but on the west is unbounded water - Small white gulls the only birds yet seen. We lay about 6 miles off from Salinas light house in 6 or 8 fathoms water all night. We entered the Southernmost or Easternmost mouth of the river with breakers on each hand of us on the bars. The river being a vast bay, another passage lies west of that we entered, from which more water issues than from the Para passage - with less to all have afforded better for. I saw one large bird coming off apparently a wulture - we are lying 1/2 mile from front of town which looks well with large churches all in the Spanish & Portuguese style with deep material - lighter about 20 vessels, chiefly brig, lie in the stream besides half a dozen steamers chiefly Brazilian gunboats. There are also 2 Brigs lying below a little Island for 5 miles down the river. A sand beach marks the shore of the river thus far - the first telegraph stands on a bank about 20 feet high, after that they grow higher and occasionally with peaked culms & bare front, but grow with vegetation.



1 P.M. We are at Para having enjoyed (10)  
the glories of tropical vegetation & forests so  
much heard of. Exceeding any thing I ever before  
saw although the general appearance of the  
is that of the Mississippi on a wider scale.  
In fact we have passed through an immense  
lake at our journey in the land.

The first life I saw was a telegraph station  
on the right bank of the river, about 30 miles  
above the bar. Then recurring at intervals all the  
way up with pretty effect of flags for they are by  
signals, not wires, Cubans half his army the  
trees then became constant, with little chambers  
here and there, small tide factories (all roofs are  
tile and have stone staircases) ~~occasionally~~ a  
pretty little low residence with red roof, white  
front & green blinds and some of pretension  
with glorious Coconut palms & other riches  
of similar sort. Some enormous trees with  
great tall straight trunks rising above  
the secondary forest with enormous domes  
like hills, regular arch of circles, nearly  
half of one. - We escape quarantine & leave this  
midnight for Pernambuco & Bahia & due at Rio 21<sup>st</sup> Mr  
I am just going on shore -